

A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON URBAN AND RURAL FAMILIES REGARDING ATTITUDE TOWARDS GIRL CHILD IN BIKANER DISTRICT OF RAJASTHAN

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ABSTRACT

In Indian society girls status is deprived and lowers due to negative thoughts, beliefs and due to gender biased attitude. In Indian context the lower status ascribed to women stemming from societal perception, values or practices that view them as an overburden and danger to particular family dignity which leads to male preference and same attitude is followed by generation to generation. Patrilineal property transfers, religious and ritualistic practices and other socioeconomic factors together lay emphasis on the need for a male offspring. The low status of women matters, both from a rights perspective and because of the potentially large economic consequences. The present study was conducted in Bikaner panchayat samiti. For selection of samples, from each village or ward 5 male and 5 female parents were selected purposely to getting total sample size of 40. Attitude of both urban and rural female was not significantly associated with family income because they possess their own thinking, perception and attitude towards girl child which may not be affected by family income. In urban area attitude towards education and social obligation were associated towards family type whereas in rural area attitude towards career and sex preference were associated towards family type.

KEYWORDS: Panchayat Samiti, Urban and Rural Respondents

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INTRODUCTION

Women and man are just like the two wheels of a chariot. Both are equal in importance and they should work together in life without neglecting ones capability. The one is not superior or inferior to other. Unlike ancient times, though currently in majority of rural and urban areas of India women are treated well, but with the orthodoxy they are cut off from the main stream of social life. The rural society did not respect them and give them the due position. They have to suffer and work inside the houses. Women constitute almost half of the population in the world. But the hegemonic masculine ideology made them suffer a lot as they were denied equal opportunities in different parts of the world. The rise of feminist ideas has, however, led to the tremendous improvement of women's condition throughout the world in recent times. Access to education has been one of the most pressing demands of these women's rights movements. India is poised to emerge as one of the most developed nations by 2020, more literate, knowledgeable and economically at the forefront. The low status of women matters, both from a rights perspective and because of the potentially large economic consequences, for example due to lower human capital investment in the next generation (Duflo 2012). One explanation for India's exceptionalism is that its religious and cultural institutions give families economic incentives to have fewer girls and to invest less in them. For example, under the system of patrilocal exogamy, girls join their husbands' family when they marry, while eldest sons provide for their parents and inherit the family land, providing incentives for parents to favor sons (Deininger *et al.* 2013; Jain 2014). In India this is yet to meet the requirements despite

reforms. Little has been achieved in the area of women empowerment, but for this to happen, this sector must experience a chain of reforms. Though India could well become one of the largest economies in the world, it is being hindered due to a lack of women's participation.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Bikaner district. A general rising of the status and standing of women in social perception can have a significant impact on the way female children are viewed and treated. In Bikaner district there are six *panchayat samities*. Out of all these one *Panchayat Samiti* viz., Kolayat *Panchayat Samiti* was selected randomly. One ward from each zone i.e. east and west zone of Bikaner city was selected. For this selection of rural respondents Kolayat *Panchayat Samiti* was selected randomly. Two villages Chandasar and Kotra were selected randomly for the present investigation. Bikaner city was selected for selection of urban respondents. Bikaner city is divided into four zones like East, West, North and South. Randomly East and West zones were selected for the study. Ward No. 52 from east zone and Ward No. 16 from west zone were included by chit method. For the selection of rural and urban respondents, 5 male and 5 female parents were selected purposely from same families to get reliable information at a time; hence total ten respondents from each village / ward were selected randomly. Thus, total 40 respondents were selected for present study (20 rural and 20 urban respondents). Interview method was used to collect data from the respondents in both urban and rural area. The present study was designed with the following specific objective:

- To assess the association between the attitude of urban and rural parents with selected independent variables.

RESULTS

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by their Age (N = 40)

S. No.	Age (In Years)	Urban		Rural	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
A.	Parents (N = 40)				
1.	38 – 43	5 (50.00)	6 (60.00)	2 (20.00)	5 (50.00)
2.	44 – 49	3 (30.00)	3 (30.00)	6 (60.00)	2 (20.00)
3.	50 – 55	2 (20.00)	1 (10.00)	2 (20.00)	3 (30.00)

Table 1 revealed that among female majority of the urban parents (60.00%) and rural parents (50.00%) belonged to the age group of 38-43 years. It is also revealed that among males further majority of the urban parents (50.00%) belonged to age group of 38-43 and rural parents (40.00%) belonged to the age group of 38-43 years and 50-55 years.

Association between the Attitude of Urban and Rural Parents with Selected Independent Variables

It could be observed from Table 2 that in both urban and rural area girl's education and media exposure were significantly associated with respondent's education. Attitude of urban parents towards saving and deposit, social obligations and sex preference were significantly associated with respondent education whereas mobility was significantly associated with age. Result further unveiled that in urban area attitude towards education and social obligation were associated towards family type whereas in rural area attitude towards career and sex preference were associated towards family type. These findings are in accordance with the findings of Bhasin (2007), Chakraborty and Sinha (2008), and Kaur, S. (2014).

Attitude towards saving and deposit and media exposure were significantly associated with mass media only in urban area because utilizing mass media they might have resulted high level of attitude. In both urban and rural area no association was observed in case of some attitude parameters like household responsibilities, decision making, health and nutrition and personality development with age, respondent education, family type, family income and mass media exposure. The findings are supported with the findings of George *et al.* (2007) who reported that there was no association between the attitude of parents with selected variables like age, economic status, family type and occupation. Attitude of both urban and rural female was not significantly associated with family income because they possess their own thinking, perception and attitude towards girl child which may not be affected by family income. These finding are in accordance with the findings of Tamta *et al.* (2008), Devais (2009), Alabi (2013) and Okorie, (2013).

Table 2: Association of Independent Factors of the Parents with Attitude towards Girl Child

Particulars	Urban				
	Age	Education Respondents	Family Type	Mass Media	Family Income
Education	0.36	6.27*	5.80*	0.63	0.03
Career	3.35	1.67	0.27	0.23	0.08
Household respondents	0.03	1.98	0.03	1.28	0.23
Decision making	0.97	2.98	3.35	3.35	0.18
Health & Nutrition	0.97	1.6	1.9	1.28	0.23
Personality development	0.21	2.41	2.41	2.41	0.04
Social obligation	2.41	4.73*	5.80*	1.58	0.03
Saving deposit	0.36	5.80*	0.03	5.80*	0.82
Media exposure	5.8*	4.5*	0.36	6.27*	2.41
Sex preference	0.21	4.73*	0.21	0.21	0.21
Mobility	5.8*	1.98	4.73	1.98	3.35

* Significant at 5% level of significance

* Significant at 1% level of significance

Table 3

Particulars	Rural				
	Age	Education Respondents	Family Type	Mass Media	Family Income
Education	1.11	4.73*	2.81	0.63	0.63
Career	3.75	2.41	5.80*	0.21	1.9
Household respondents	0.63	0.05	2.41	0.08	0.03
Decision making	1.9	0.04	0.03	1.98	2.75
Health & Nutrition	0.23	0.63	0.21	1.98	3.75
Personality development	0.01	0.97	0.36	0.14	0.97
Social obligation	3.75	1.28	2.76	0.05	0.95
Saving deposit	0.63	0.23	0.39	1.28	0.42
Media exposure	1.28	4.73*	1.28	0.21	2.41
Sex preference	1.9	2.41	5.80*	0.97	1.9
Mobility	3.75	0.05	2.41	0.04	0.63

* Significant at 5% level of significance

* * Significant at 1% level of significance

CONCLUSIONS

Results indicated that attitude towards saving and deposit and media exposure were significantly associated with mass media only in urban area because utilizing mass media they might have resulted high level of attitude. In both urban and rural area no association was observed in case of some attitude parameters like household responsibilities, decision

making, health and nutrition and personality development with age, respondent education, family type, family income and mass media exposure.

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